



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 12, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. Water quality standards, animal feeding on January EPC agenda**
- 2. Beeds Lake residents asked for input on water quality improvement plan**
- 3. More e85 purchased in 2005 than in previous eight years combined**
- 4. New study on the energy economy released**

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, ANIMAL FEEDING ON JANUARY EPC AGENDA

DES MOINES – Commissioners will decide whether or not to finalize changes to the state water quality standards and act on several animal feeding issues at the Jan. 17 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

The DNR will ask commissioners to approve a rule proposal that would change water quality standards. If approved, those changes will increase protection for recreation and aquatic life uses in perennial streams and in intermittent streams with perennial pools.

Commissioners will be asked to finalize a rule that establishes methods to gather information regarding the aquatic life uses for warm water streams. This proposal renames two existing warm water aquatic life use categories and adds a third category that protects intermittent streams with perennial pools.

Commissioners will also be asked to approve a rule proposal that would allow the DNR greater latitude to place conditions on proposed confinements that need a manure management plan or construction permit prior to building. The rule would be used if the proposed facility could potentially cause a threat to water quality.

The EPC will meet at 10:00 a.m., Jan. 17, at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. A hearing for the Hancock County Board of Supervisors on the Otis Finisher Farm is scheduled for 1 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Commissioners will also meet on Jan. 18 in the Wallace State Office Building auditorium, 902 East Ninth St. in Des Moines, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to discuss non-point source water pollution. Dr. Dennis Keeney will present information on crop and nutrient management at 10 a.m. Dr. William Crumpton will present information at 11 a.m. on how nutrient loading can be reduced with wetlands, farm ponds and drainage management. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda for the Jan. 17 meeting follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- IDPH Contract for Brownfield Assistance
- Final Rule - Amend IAC 567-Chapter 101; "Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning Requirements"
- Final Rule – Rescind IAC 567—Chapter 211 "Grants for Regional Collection Centers of Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators and Household Hazardous Wastes". Adopt both IAC 567—Chapter 211 "Financial Assistance for the Collection of Household Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste From Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators" and IAC 567—Chapter 123 "Regional Collection Centers and Mobile Unit Collection and Consolidation Center" in lieu thereof.
- Final Rule - Amendments to Chapter 135, Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks and Chapter 134, Certification of Groundwater Professionals
- Final Rule – Water Quality Standards
- Final Rule – Chapter 65: Technical Corrections and Additions to Table 1: Major Water Sources – Rivers and Streams
- Emergency/ Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 65: Technical Corrections to 65.17 Manure Management Plan Content Requirements
- Notice of Intended Action – Amend IAC 567 Chapter 105 – "Organic Materials Composting Facilities"
- Notice of Intended Action - amendment to rule regarding department evaluation; denial of or condition of construction permits or disapproval or modification of MMPs for confinement feeding operations
- Referrals to the Attorney General
 - a) Fred Miller, dba Earthworks Contracting (Cherokee) – Air Quality and Solid Waste
- Proposed Contested Case Decisions
 - Rick Nikkel
 - Patrick Jones
 - Rick Halma

Matt Gehling

- Proposed Rule – Chapter 135 Uniform Environmental Covenants Policy and Procedures.
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 64 – Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits
- Proposed Rule – Chapters 50-54 – Water Use and Water Allocation Rules
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting
- Upcoming Meetings
February 20, 2006
March 20, 2006
April 21, 2006

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Jerry Peckum, vice chair, Jefferson; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; and Henry Marquard, Muscatine. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes at (515) 281-51325.

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BEEDS LAKE RESIDENTS ASKED FOR INPUT ON WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DES MOINES – The DNR will present plans for improving water quality at Beeds Lake in Franklin County at a public meeting Jan. 19. The draft water quality improvement plan will be discussed in the basement meeting room at the First National Bank of Hampton, 211 First St. NW in Hampton, at 6 p.m.

The draft plan, also known as a TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, has been developed for Beeds Lake. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain water quality standards.

The water quality improvement plan also includes information on how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts in the watershed, or the surrounding area that drains into the lake. After receiving public comments, the draft plan will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The water quality problems at Beeds Lake are related to high levels of E. coli, a bacteria that indicates untreated wastes from warm-blooded animals (humans, wildlife, livestock, birds) are in the water. In Beeds Lake, the E. coli has come from nonpoint sources

throughout the watershed. Potential sources in the Beeds Lake watershed include treated wastewater, overland runoff from areas with wildlife and livestock, and leaking septic systems.

Comments on the draft plan will be received through Feb. 3. Copies of the draft plan are available from the following sources, which can also be used to submit comments:

- Internet: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html
- E-mail chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.

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MORE E85 PURCHASED IN 2005 THAN IN PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS COMBINED

DES MOINES – More E85 was purchased in Iowa in 2005 than in all of the previous years combined, helping statewide sales grow by more than 700 percent in the past two years.

In 2005, more than 665,000 gallons were reported sold at retail stations in Iowa. Between 1997 and 2004, a total of 530,202 gallons were sold.

In 2004, 140,726 gallons were reported sold by retail stations, the previous highest annual sales volume. In 2003, 81,891 gallons were reported sold.

The number of E85 retail stations in Iowa nearly doubled from 14 active stations in 2004 to 26 stations by the end of 2005.

According to Tami Foster, energy data analyst with the DNR, the increase in E85 sales in 2005 can be attributed to record high gasoline prices, new state funding for E85 stations and increased marketing efforts.

“We saw a significant increase in the sales volume for E85 in August and September as gasoline reached \$3 a gallon,” said Foster. “E85 typically sells for about 40 cents a gallon less than regular unleaded.”

The lower cost for E85 helps offset the reduced fuel efficiency. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, fuel efficiency may be reduced by 10-30 percent, depending on vehicle and driver habits.

New funding through the Iowa Values Fund also helped the market grow as new stations began offering E85 in October, November and December.

“Increased consumer marketing efforts and statewide partnerships, such as the Iowa Clean Cities program, have also contributed to the record sales,” said Foster.

The state of Iowa was designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as a Clean Cities coalition in October. Clean Cities focuses on increasing the use of alternative fuels and vehicles to reduce petroleum consumption and improve air quality.

E85, which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, can be used in flexible fuel vehicles.

Another E85 sales milestone was reached in October when the one-millionth gallon of E85 was sold in Iowa.

E85 was first sold in Iowa in 1996 although sales data is only available from 1997 to the present.

Funding is available to retailers interested in installing or converting existing equipment to be compatible with E85.

The Iowa Values Fund offers forgivable loans of up to 50 percent of total project costs. A total of \$325,000 each year for three years was allocated last year by the Iowa Legislature. The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition provides marketing and infrastructure funding for E85 retailers.

A map and list of E85 retail stations can be found at www.iowacleancities.org

For more information, contact Tami Foster at (515) 281-6558 or tami.foster@dnr.state.ia.us

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NEW STUDY ON THE ENERGY ECONOMY RELEASED

DES MOINES – The Iowa State University Department of Economics recently completed a report detailing the flow of energy dollars through Iowa's economy. The report, commissioned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, found that of the more than \$8 billion spent on energy in 2001, nearly 37 percent (or \$3 billion dollars) goes to out of state sources. The amount of so-called "energy leakage" differs depending on the energy source, ranging from more than 50 percent for natural gas expenditures to less than 20 percent for electricity.

The report concluded that increased energy efficiency has the greatest potential to reduce the energy leakage from Iowa's economy, with substitutions of in-state resources (such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind energy) also offering potential reductions.

The full study may be found online at:
<http://www.iowadnr.com/energy/info/files/economy.pdf>. For more information, contact
Mark Imerman at (515) 294-5781 or Dan Otto at (515) 294-6147.

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